3rd November 1931]

Forest Panchayats

Powers of forest panchayats to compound forest offences.

* 587 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many forest panchayats in the Presidency have power to compound forest offences;

(*b*) how many forest panchayats have not the power to compound forest offences; and

(*c*) whether there is a proposal before Government to empower all the forest panchayats to compound forest offences?

A.—(*a*) 29.

(*b*) 965.

(*c*) No.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" May I know, with reference to the answer to clause (*b*), for what reasons certain panchayats are not empowered to compound offences? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" The panchayats are empowered to compound offences, only when the local officers consider that it is safe to entrust those powers to them; and that in turn depends on the manner in which those panchayats discharge their duties."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether it is a fact that the Government are considering a proposal to abolish the Forest Panchayat Officer? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know what saving they are going to effect by means of retrenchment in the Forest Panchayat department? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I must ask for notice of the question. I do not know how that question arises under this question."

Irrigation

The Palar Committee.

* 588 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the information called for by the Palar Committee has been received and if so, when it is proposed to resume the work of the Committee?

A.—The information has not yet been received.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Is it proposed to resume the work of the Palar Committee in the near future, Sir? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" That we will consider when we get the information that has been called for."

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Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"Is it not a fact that the Palar Irrigation Committee could not come to any conclusion on the information placed before them and therefore they thought it necessary to call for further information?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"I think it is likely. The question will be considered when the information is received."

Minor Irrigation

Supply of water to Elundrakondan Periyakulam, Srivilliputtur taluk.

* 589 *Q.*—Mr. M. D. T. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the reports called for by the Government to interpellations 97 and 104 to 107 answered in the Council on the 5th August 1931 are now available and if so, whether the hon. Member will be pleased to place them on the table of the House?

A.—*Interpellations Nos.* 104 *to* 107.—Copies [a] of the reports received with reference to these interpellations are attached.

Interpellation No. 97.—The report has not yet been received.

Irrigation of lands east of the Telugan tank, conversion of dry lands under the Elundrakondan Periyakulam into wet, etc.

* 590 *Q.*—Mr. M. Devadasan: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table of the House the reports promised to be called for when answering questions Nos. 104 to 107 given at the meeting of the Council held on 5th August 1931?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 589.

Stoppage of minor irrigation works in the Anantapur district.

* 591 *Q.*—Mr. P. Bayappa Reddi: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount sanctioned for expenditure on minor irrigation works in the Anantapur district for the current year;

(*b*) the amount already spent;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that they have stopped all further expenditure on minor irrigation;

(*d*) if so, from what date; and

(*e*) the amount so saved by the stoppage of the works?

A.—(*a*) Rupees 65,000 for works in charge of the Revenue Department and Rs. 26,325 for works in charge of the Public Works Department.

(*b*) Rupees 15,654 up to the end of September 1931 on works in charge of the Public Works Department. The Government have no information regarding the amount spent on works in charge of the Revenue Department.

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[a] Printed as Appendix V on pages 588—591 infra.